

AMALGAM

LEGENDS OF THE

# DARK CLAW



**#1**  
APR 96

\$1.95 US  
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LARRY HAMA · JIM BALENT · RAY MCCARTHY



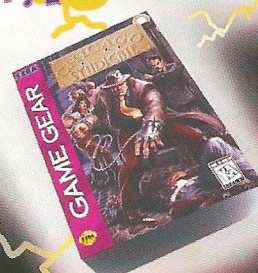
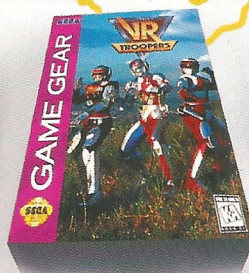
04 >



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"BLACK AND  
WHITE AND RED  
ALL OVER"--

--IT DOESN'T  
TAKE A DETECTIVE TO  
FIGURE OUT WHERE  
YOUR CLUE WAS POINT-  
ING TO, HYENA..."

**SPANG!**

**PING!**

**BWEEEE!**

**VIP!**





... BUT HOW DOES THE GOTHAM GAZETTE PRINTING PLANT FIT INTO YOUR NEFARIOUS SCHEME?

THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT, DARK CLAW!

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS AS TO WHY I DROPPED YOU A HINT ABOUT WHERE I WAS GOING TO STRIKE NEXT?

**BRAKABRAKABRAKA!**

NOT MUCH.

--IT'S NO FUN IF I JUST TELL YOU!

THIS ISN'T TWENTY QUESTIONS!

I DON'T EXPECT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME, ANYWAY!

**SCRRIP!**

**THWAK!**

**SHRANK!**

YOU WERE ALWAYS SUCH A HUMORLESS STICK-IN-THE-MUD!

AWW--

**SLAM!**

SO INFLEXIBLE!


YOU NEVER WANT TO PLAY!!

**BRAAAP!**









YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO BE  
A WAS!

THROUGH  
A  
GLASS  
DARKLY

WRITER: LARRY HAMA  
PENCILLER: JIM BALENT  
INKER: RAY MCCARTHY

COLORIST: GARRAHY  
BILL  
LETTERER: OAKLEY





OH,  
MY!!

HOW  
UNCHARACTERISTI-  
CALLY DROLL!!

HAVE WE  
BEEN STAYING  
UP LATE AND  
WATCHING THE  
COMEDY  
CHANNEL?

SPAK!

POP!

ASSOCIATE  
EDITOR: JORDAN B.  
GÖRFINKEL

RATOR: DENNY  
O'NEIL

SPOK!





THIS IS THE  
END OF YOUR  
STAND-UP ROUTINE,  
HYENA!

GIVE ME ONE  
GOOD REASON  
WHY I SHOULDN'T  
JUST CUT YOUR  
THROAT AND DROP  
YOU INTO  
TRAFFIC!



NO  
ALTERNATE  
SIDE OF THE  
STREET BODY-  
DUMPING ON  
WEEKDAYS?

WEAK.

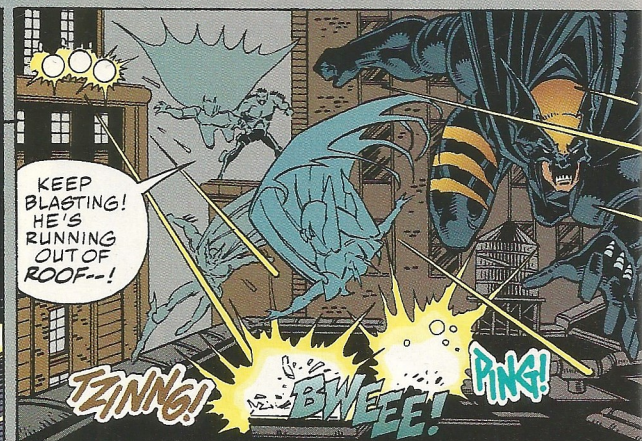
OH, I'VE GOT  
A BOOOOOD  
ONE--!



--HOWABOUT  
MY PACK SHOWS UP  
AND BLOWS YOU  
AWAY??



STEP BACK,  
BOSS--AND  
WE'LL WASTE  
HIS FACE!



KEEP  
BLASTING!  
HE'S  
RUNNING  
OUT OF  
ROOF--!

TEINNG!

BWEE!

PNG!



AWW!  
NO MORE  
WOOF!

PAWK CWAW  
GONNA FALL DOWN,  
GO BOOM!



The background is a dark, atmospheric painting. It features a woman's face, partially obscured by a skull mask with horns. A large, pale hand is visible in the lower left. The overall color palette is dominated by dark reds, purples, and blues, with some highlights of gold and white. The style is reminiscent of gothic or dark fantasy art.

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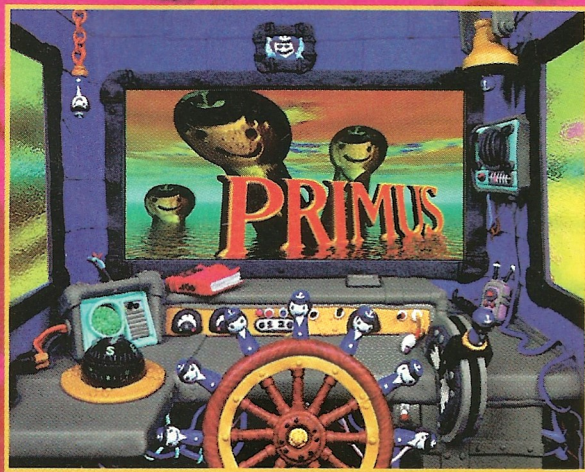


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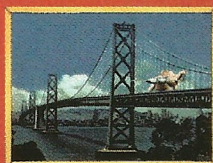
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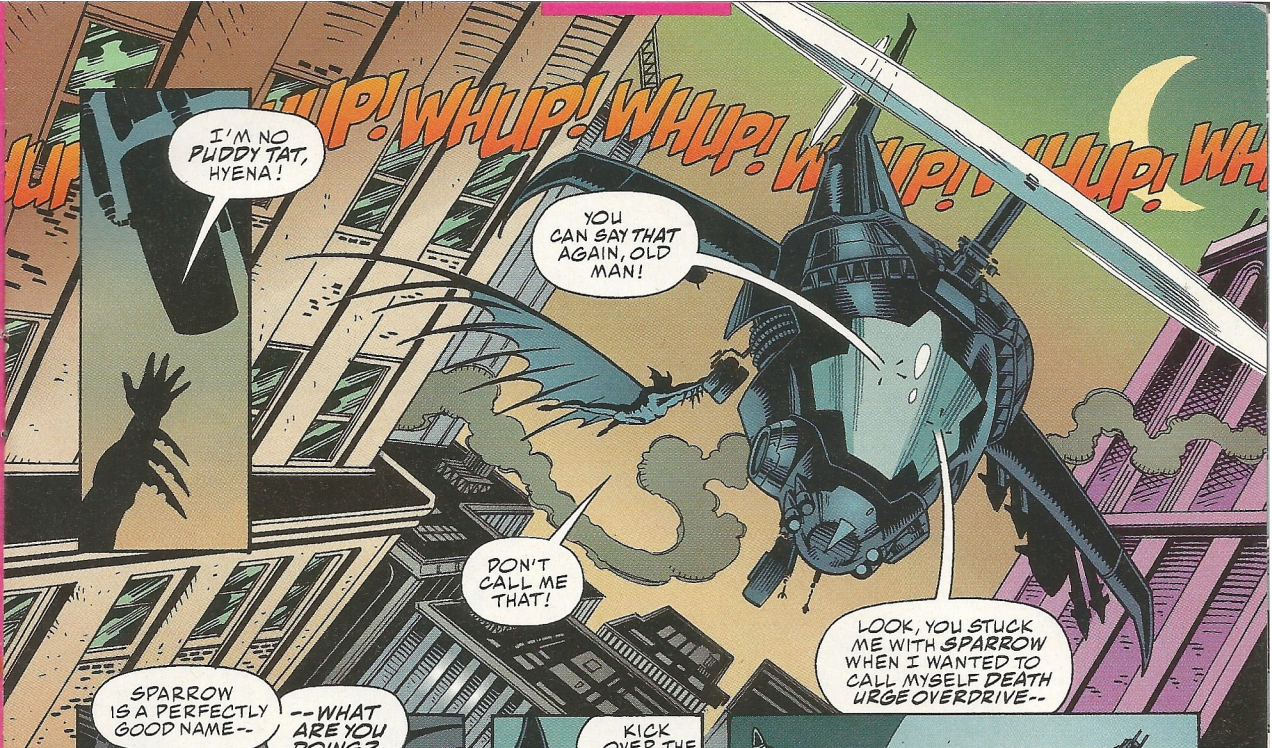
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I'M NO  
PUDDY TAT,  
HYENA!

YOU  
CAN SAY THAT  
AGAIN, OLD  
MAN!

DON'T  
CALL ME  
THAT!

LOOK, YOU STUCK  
ME WITH SPARROW  
WHEN I WANTED TO  
CALL MYSELF DEATH  
URGE OVERDRIVE--

SPARROW  
IS A PERFECTLY  
GOOD NAME--

--WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

COMIN'  
AROUND  
FOR A  
STRAFING  
RUN--

KICK  
OVER THE  
CYCLIC--!



--THOSE  
THUGS HAVE  
MISSILES!



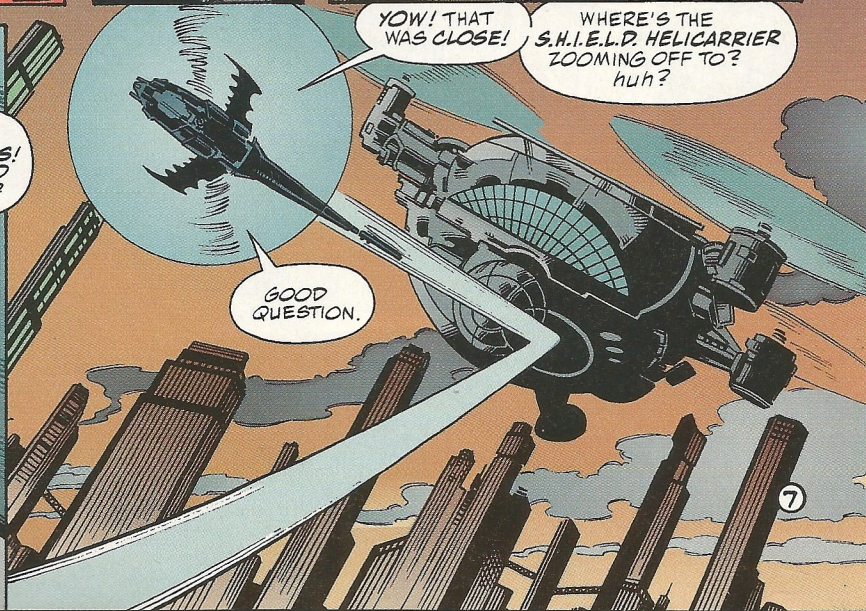
YOW! THAT  
WAS CLOSE!

WHERE'S THE  
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER  
ZOOMING OFF TO?  
huh?

GOOD  
QUESTION.

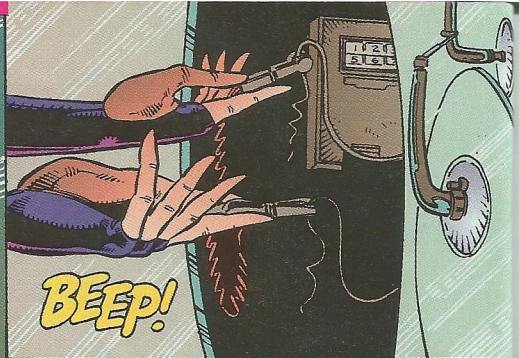
HEAT  
SEEKERS!  
HOW DID  
YOU--?

HANG  
ON!

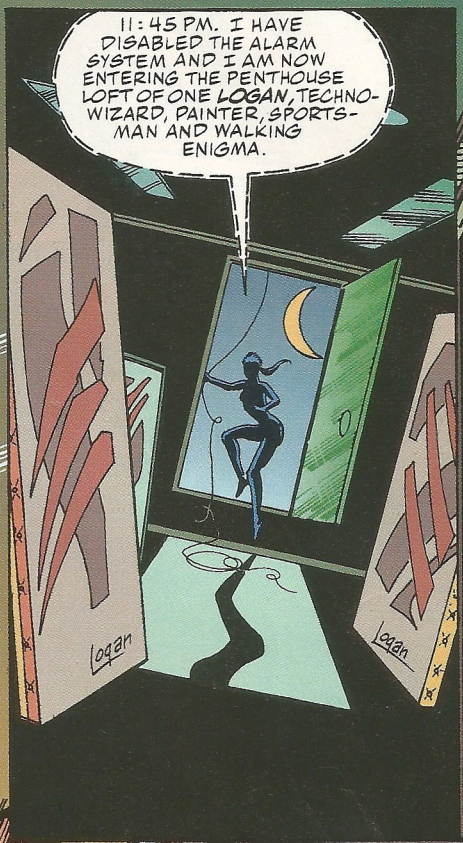
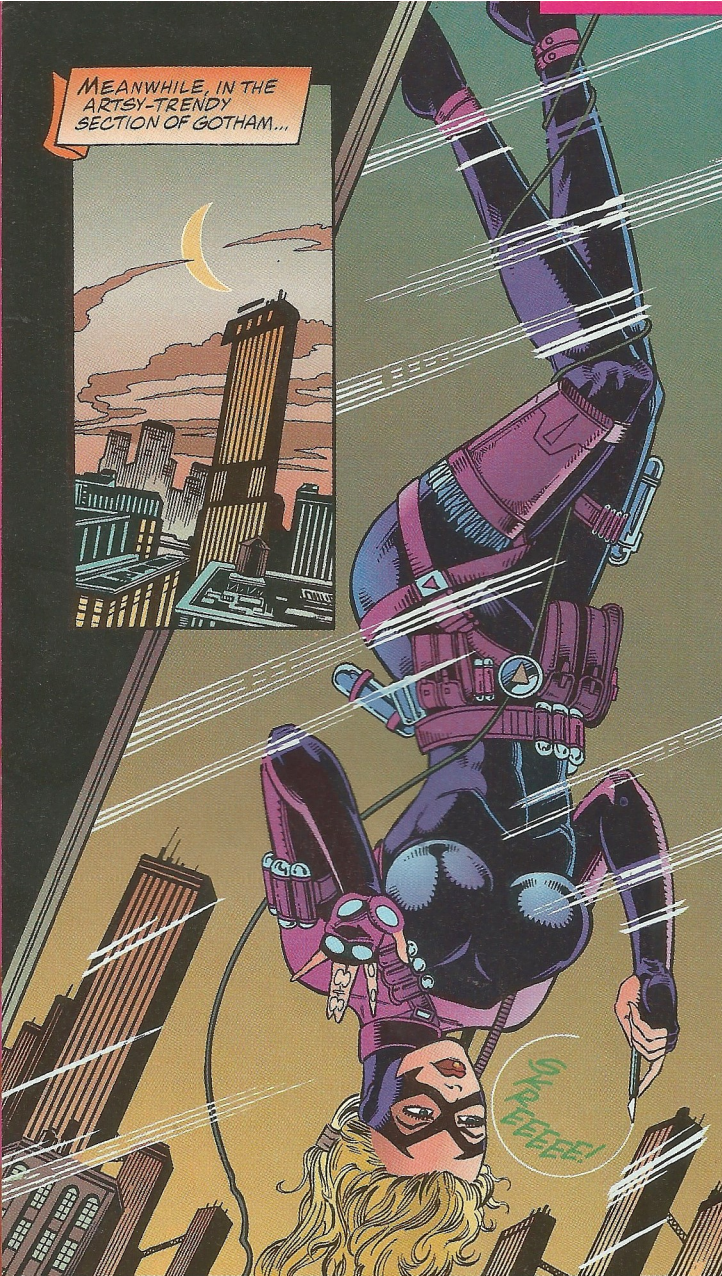




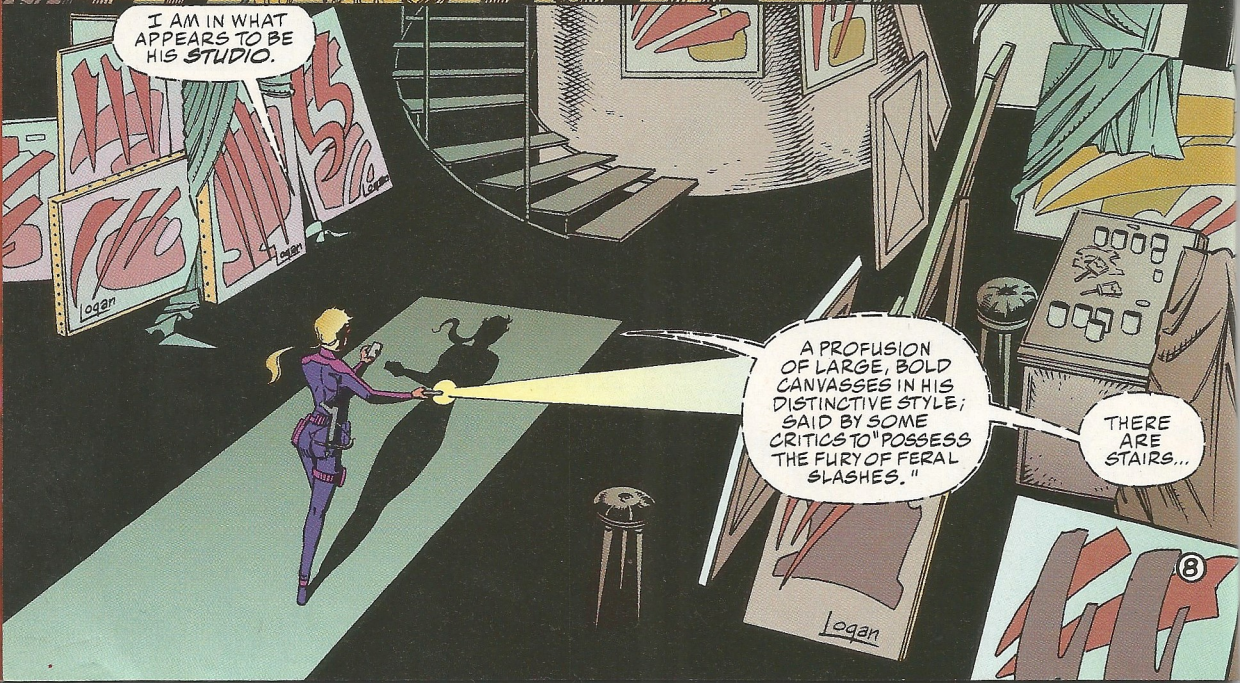
MEANWHILE, IN THE ARTSY-TRENDY SECTION OF GOTHAM...



11:45 PM. I HAVE DISABLED THE ALARM SYSTEM AND I AM NOW ENTERING THE PENTHOUSE LOFT OF ONE LOGAN, TECHNO-WIZARD, PAINTER, SPORTSMAN AND WALKING ENIGMA.



I AM IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE HIS STUDIO.





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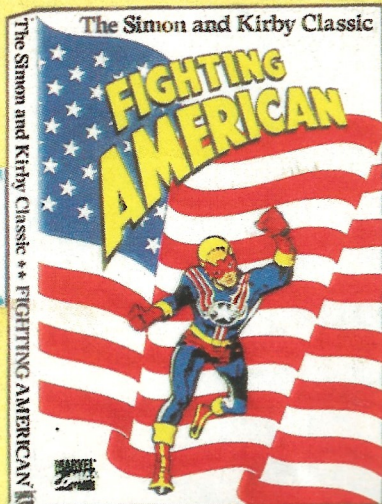


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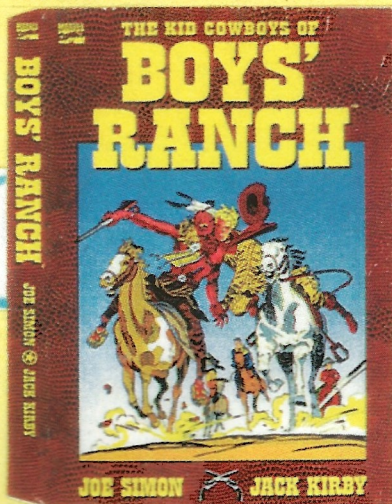


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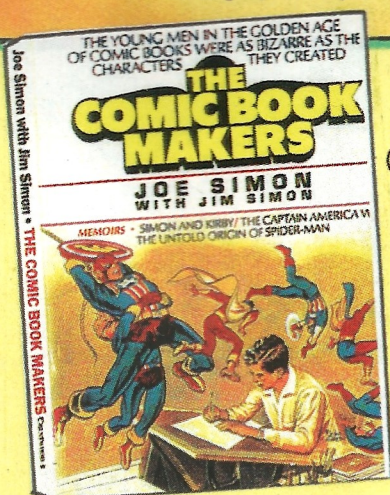
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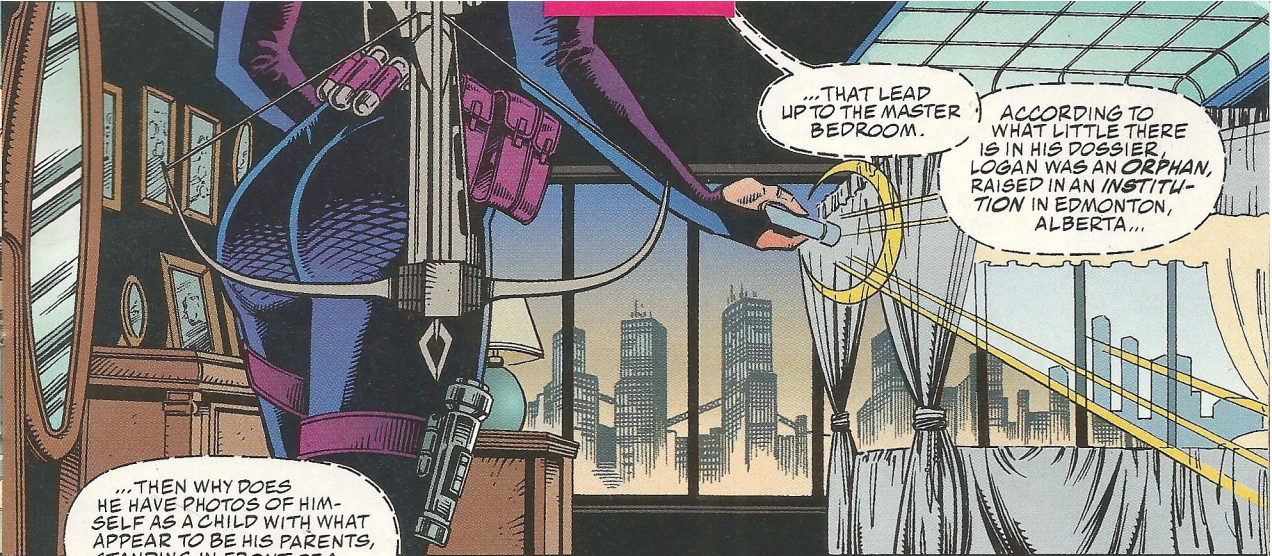
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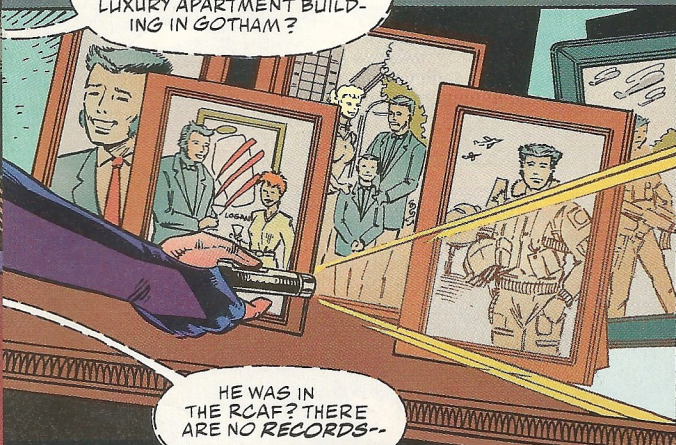




...THAT LEAD UP TO THE MASTER BEDROOM.

ACCORDING TO WHAT LITTLE THERE IS IN HIS DOSSIER LOGAN WAS AN ORPHAN, RAISED IN AN INSTITUTION IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA...

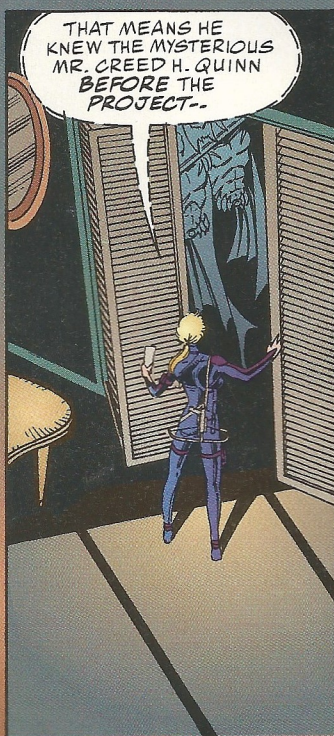
...THEN WHY DOES HE HAVE PHOTOS OF HIMSELF AS A CHILD WITH WHAT APPEAR TO BE HIS PARENTS, STANDING IN FRONT OF A LUXURY APARTMENT BUILDING IN GOTHAM?



HE WAS IN THE RCAF? THERE ARE NO RECORDS--

AND WHAT WAS HE DOING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA? AND--

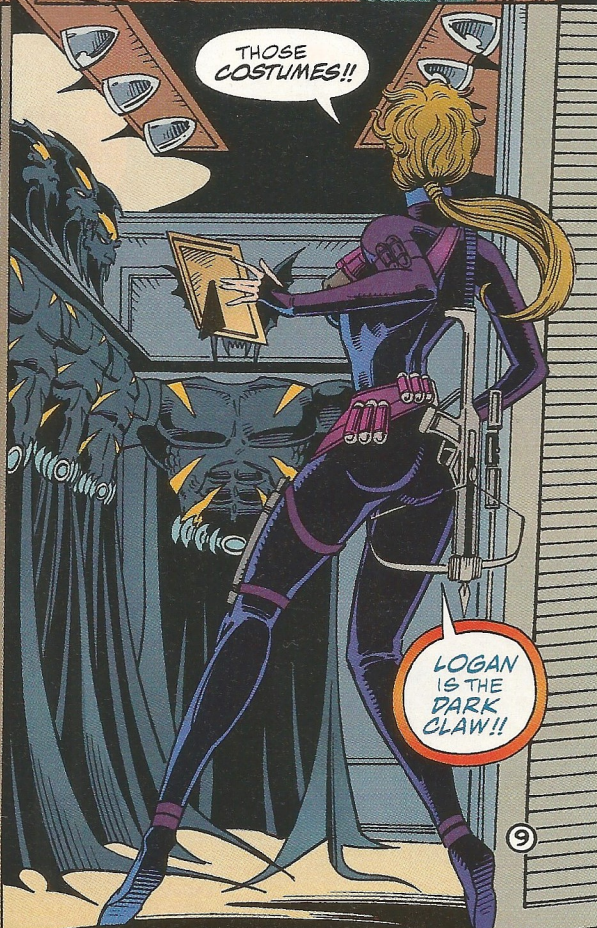
--THE OTHER MAN IN THIS PHOTO IS CREED!



THAT MEANS HE KNEW THE MYSTERIOUS MR. CREED H. QUINN BEFORE THE PROJECT--



--GOOD LORD!!



THOSE COSTUMES!!

LOGAN IS THE DARK CLAW!!





AND YOU ARE THE HUNTRESS--

--A.K.A. CAROL DANVERS!

A SECRET PASSAGE AND ELEVATOR BEHIND THE CLOSET WALL-- SO THAT'S HOW YOU GET IN AND OUT--

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WHO I WAS--?

I'M A DETECTIVE, REMEMBER?



WHAT ELSE HAS YOUR IMPERTINENT SNOOPING UNCOVERED?

NOT MUCH!

WHEN I ACCESSED YOUR ULTRA-ULTRA FILE IN THE TOP SECRET ARCHIVES, IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN ELABORATE FICTION!

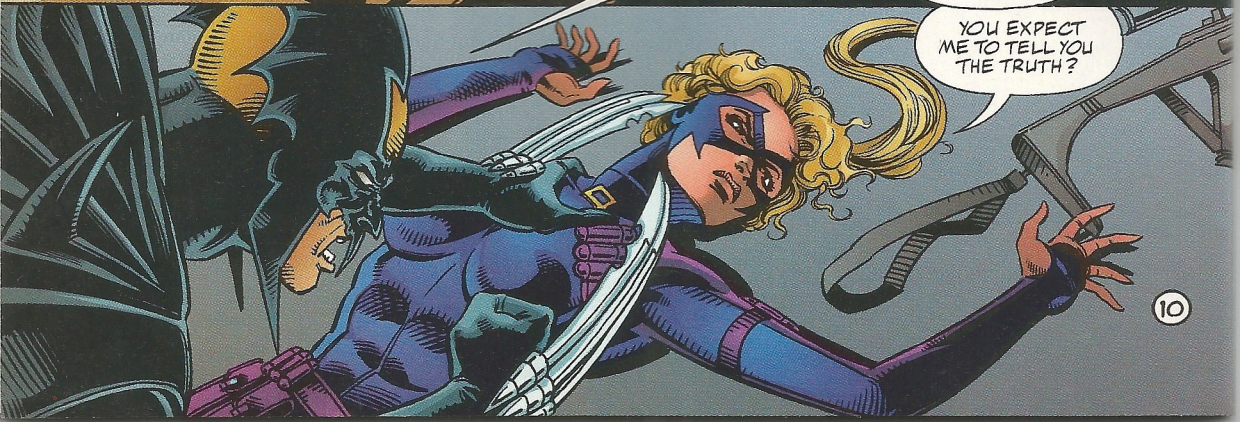
JUST HOW DEEP IS YOUR COVER, LOGAN?

AS DEEP AS YOUR OWN, IF YOU KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT ME!



YOU USED TO RUN OPS FOR SOME NO-NAME, NO-VISIBLE BUDGET, FEDERAL PUZZLE-PALACE DIRECTORATE--WORD WAS YOU WENT ROGUE.

YOU'RE OUT IN THE COLD, RIGHT? RUNNING ON A LONG LEASH?



YOU EXPECT ME TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH?



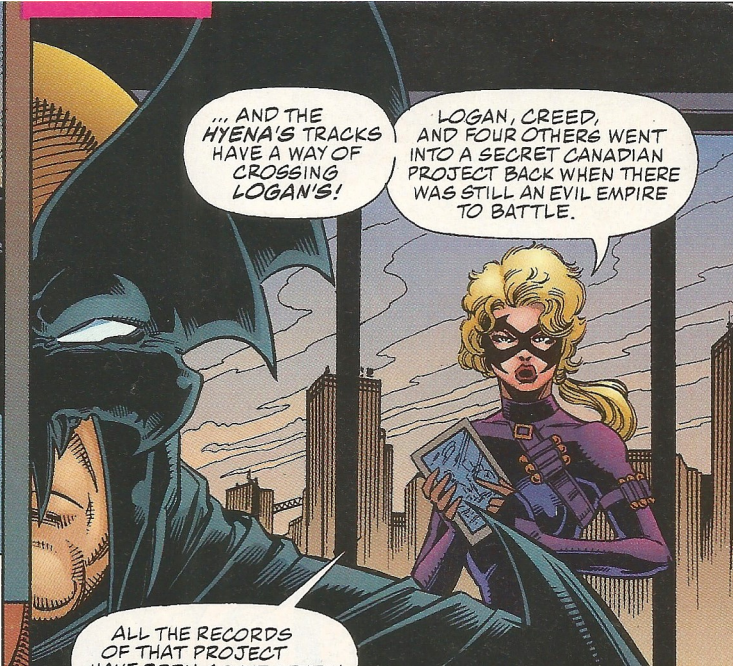


WHAT DO I DO WITH YOU?

I'M BLOWN IF I LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE.

HOW DID YOU TUMBLE ON TO ME, ANYHOW?


I WASN'T OUT TO TRACK DOWN DARK CLAW-- I WAS AFTER THE HYENA...



... AND THE HYENA'S TRACKS HAVE A WAY OF CROSSING LOGAN'S!

LOGAN, CREED, AND FOUR OTHERS WENT INTO A SECRET CANADIAN PROJECT BACK WHEN THERE WAS STILL AN EVIL EMPIRE TO BATTLE.

ALL THE RECORDS OF THAT PROJECT HAVE BEEN CONVENIENTLY DESTROYED...



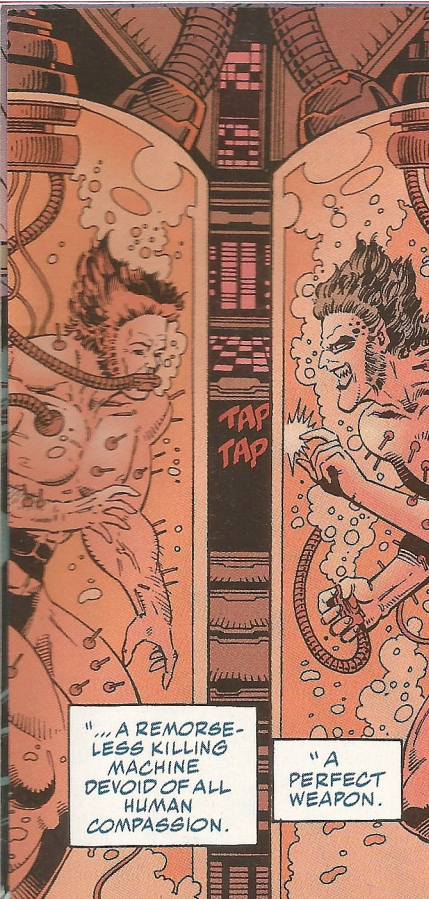
"...EXCEPT FOR A FEW FRAGMENTS OF NOTES BY A PROFESSOR CARTER NICHOLS WHICH MENTION TWO SCIENTISTS NAMED CORNELIUS AND HINES.

"I TAKE IT THAT SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG AT THE PROJECT--?"

ACTUALLY, THE PROGRAM WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

IT PRODUCED EXACTLY WHAT IT SET OUT TO PRODUCE...





"...A REMORSE-  
LESS KILLING  
MACHINE  
DEVOID OF ALL  
HUMAN  
COMPASSION.

"A  
PERFECT  
WEAPON.



"THEY FORGOT ONE  
IMPORTANT THING  
ABOUT WEAPONS.



"THEY ARE  
USUALLY INERT  
OBJECTS THAT  
CAN'T GET UP  
OFF A TABLE  
AND DO HARM BY  
THEMSELVES."



THEIR MISTAKE  
WAS IN CREATING A  
WEAPON WITH AN  
IMAGINATION.

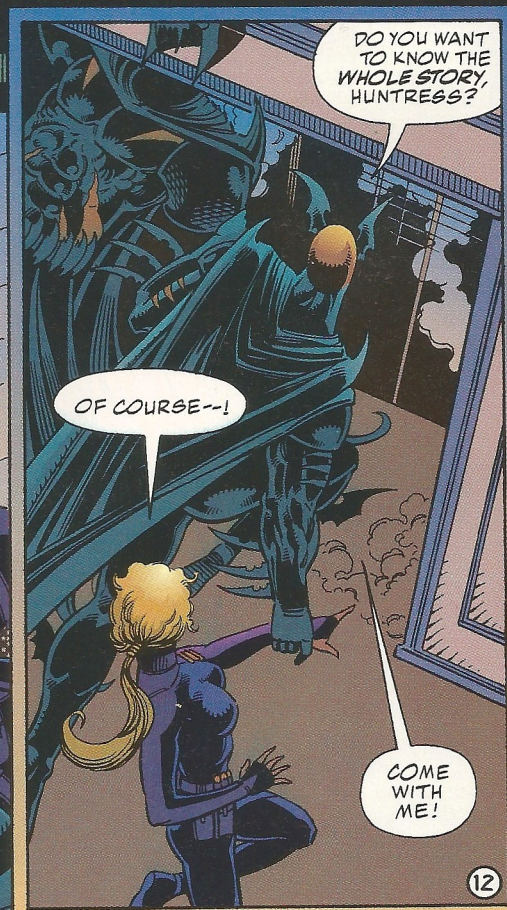
THAT  
WAS  
YOU?

NO.

I WAS THE  
FAILURE.

USELESS  
TO THEM AS  
A WEAPON,  
YOU SEE...

"... BECAUSE I  
WAS POSSESSED OF  
A CONSCIENCE.



DO YOU WANT  
TO KNOW THE  
WHOLE STORY,  
HUNTRESS?

OF COURSE--!

COME  
WITH  
ME!



EEEEEE!

DON'T PANIC ON ME, MS. DANVERS--!

THIS IS A PNEUMATIC TUBE WITH AN AIR-CUSHION AT THE BOTTOM.

--WELCOME TO THE BARROW.

THAT PORTRAIT-- IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE IN YOUR BEDROOM...

...ARE THEY YOUR PARENTS?

I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN THEY WERE SHOT DOWN IN FRONT OF ME BY AN ARMED ROBBER.

I WAS SENT TO LIVE WITH MY UNCLE IN ALBERTA, UP NEAR BUFFALO WOOD. HE WAS A MOUNTIE. SOME POACHERS AMBUSHED HIM AND LEFT HIM TO DIE IN THE SNOW. THE RCMP SENT ME TO A HOME RUN BY NUNS. AS SOON AS I WAS OLD ENOUGH, I SIGNED UP FOR THE AIR FORCE--

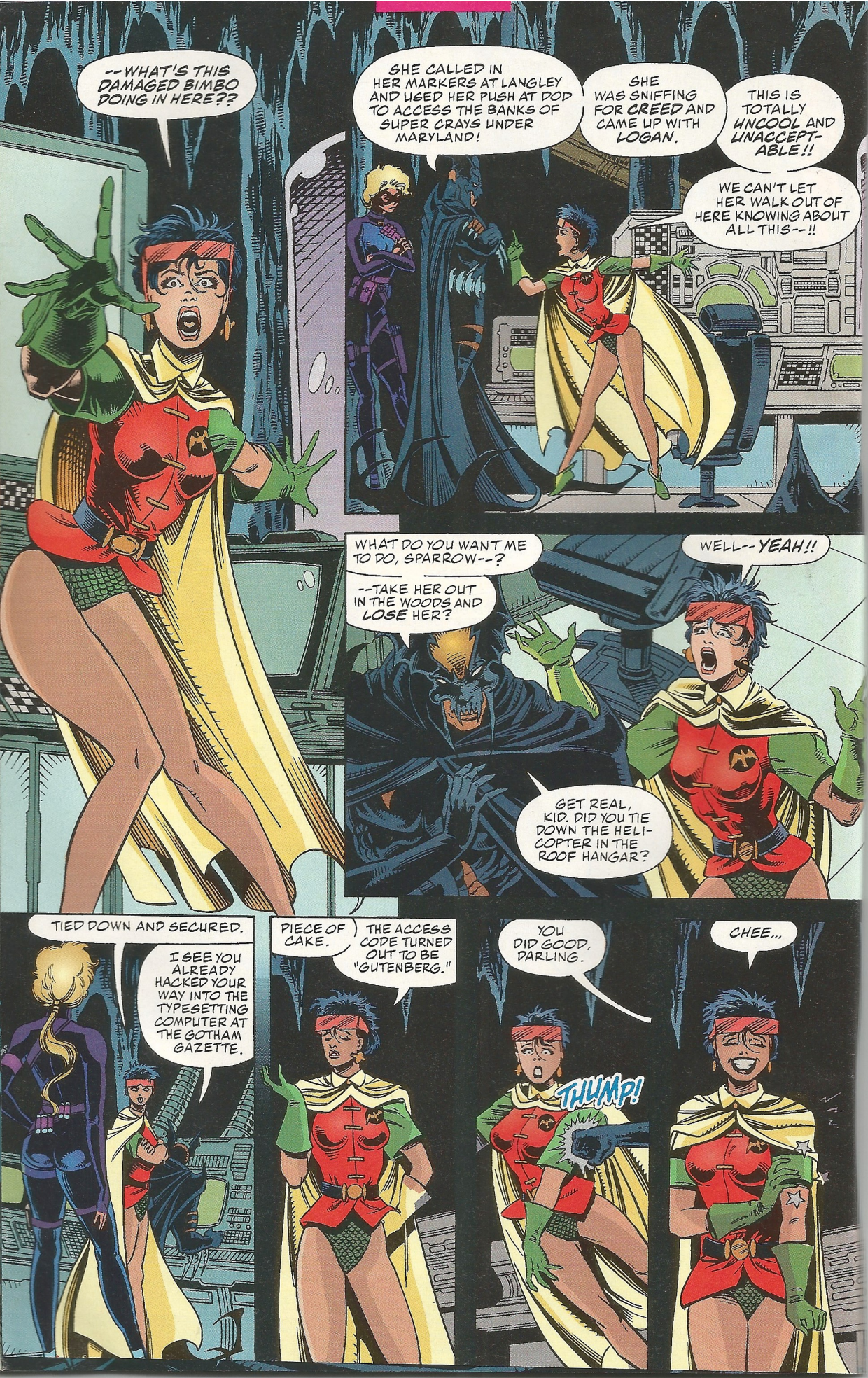
--ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE SECURITY!

CREED WAS IN THE SAME OUTFIT! THAT WAS THE LINK! THAT'S WHERE YOU--

WE ARE GOING DEEP BELOW THE BED-ROCK OF GOTHAM, DOWN TO A LAIR THAT ONLY TWO OTHER PEOPLE HAVE EVER SEEN OR EVEN HEARD OF--

HEY--!!





--WHAT'S THIS  
DAMAGED BIMBO  
DOING IN HERE??

SHE CALLED IN  
HER MARKERS AT LANGLEY  
AND USED HER PUSH AT DOD  
TO ACCESS THE BANKS OF  
SUPER CRAYS UNDER  
MARYLAND!

SHE  
WAS SNIFFING  
FOR CREED AND  
CAME UP WITH  
LOGAN.

THIS IS  
TOTALLY  
UNCOOL AND  
UNACCEPT-  
ABLE!!

WE CAN'T LET  
HER WALK OUT OF  
HERE KNOWING ABOUT  
ALL THIS--!!

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME  
TO DO, SPARROW--?

--TAKE HER OUT  
IN THE WOODS AND  
LOSE HER?

WELL--YEAH!!

GET REAL,  
KID. DID YOU TIE  
DOWN THE HELI-  
COPTER IN THE  
ROOF HANGAR?

TIED DOWN AND SECURED.

I SEE YOU  
ALREADY  
HACKED YOUR  
WAY INTO THE  
TYPESETTING  
COMPUTER AT  
THE GOTHAM  
GAZETTE.

PIECE OF  
CAKE.

THE ACCESS  
CODE TURNED  
OUT TO BE  
"GUTENBERG."

YOU  
DID GOOD,  
DARLING.

CHEE...

THUMP!



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN THE GAZETTE COMPUTER?

WHEN I TANGLED WITH THE *HYENA* AT THE PRINTING PLANT, I NOTICED THAT *CREED* WAS WEARING A STATIC ELECTRICITY DISCHARGE WIRE ON HIS WRIST.

HE WASN'T THERE TO PLANT A BOMB AT ALL-- HE WAS THERE TO GO INSIDE THE GUTS OF A *COMPUTER*--

--THE DISCHARGE WIRE IS TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE MEMORY.

HE'S A REAL JOKER, 'CLAW--

PUNCH IT UP, SPARROW!

--MAYBE HE WAS MESSING WITH THE HEAD-LINES FOR THE MORNING PAPER?

SO, WHY GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE *TYPOGRAPHY* OF THE NEWS-PAPER?

ALREADY PUNCHED, AWESOME ONE!

WHUZZIS, A REBUS?

# The Gotham Gazette

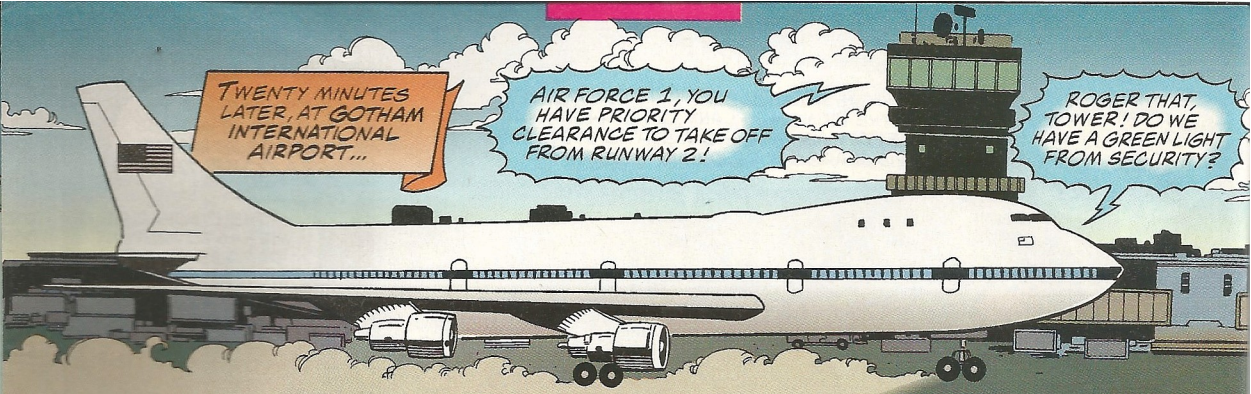
## AF 1+NaCN=

"AF1" IS AIR FORCE 1--THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE!

AND "NaCN" IS SODIUM CYANIDE-- A DEADLY POISON!

THE PRESIDENT IS IN GOTHAM AND DUE TO FLY BACK TO WASHINGTON IN TWENTY MINUTES!





TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

AIR FORCE 1, YOU HAVE PRIORITY CLEARANCE TO TAKE OFF FROM RUNWAY 2!

ROGER THAT, TOWER! DO WE HAVE A GREEN LIGHT FROM SECURITY?



NEGATIVE! WE HAVE AN UNIDENTIFIED HELICOPTER OVER THE FIELD ON AN INTERCEPT WITH AF1!

THAT THING DIDN'T SHOW UP ON RADAR! IT MUST BE RUNNING A THIRD GENERATION PASSIVE ECM SUITE!

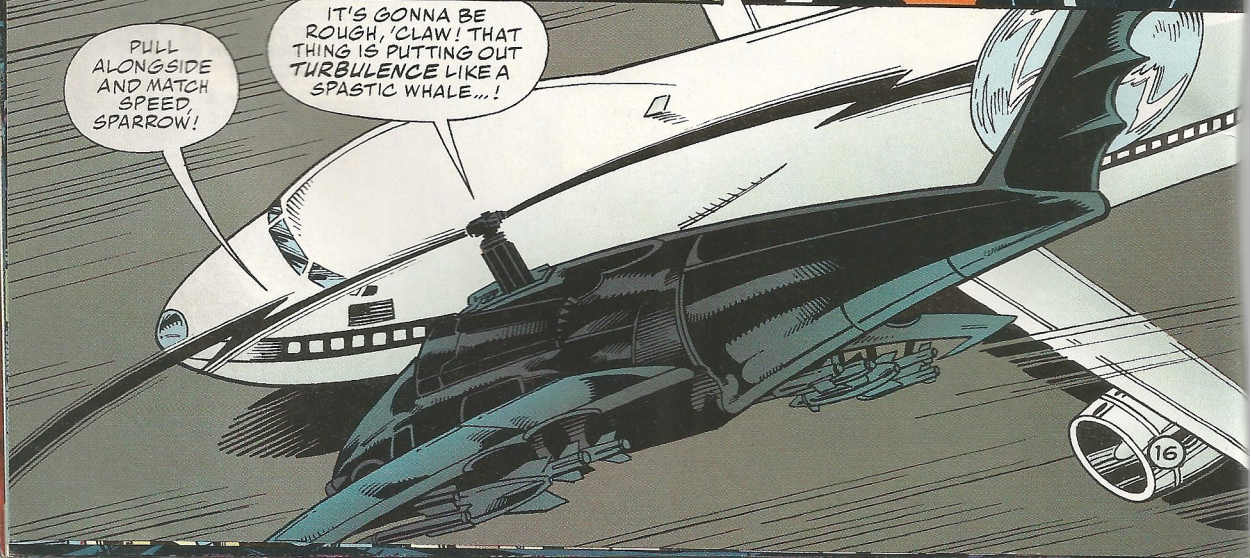


WE HAVE A BOGEY INTERCEPT! ABORT THE TAKEOFF!

WE CAN'T! TOO MUCH VELOCITY AND NOT ENOUGH RUNWAY! WE'RE COMMITTED!!



SITUATION RED! SECURE THE QUARTERBACK!



PULL ALONGSIDE AND MATCH SPEED SPARROW!

IT'S GONNA BE ROUGH, 'CLAW! THAT THING IS PUTTING OUT TURBULENCE LIKE A SPASTIC WHALE...!

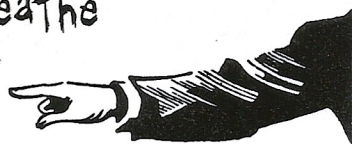


# super hot deals

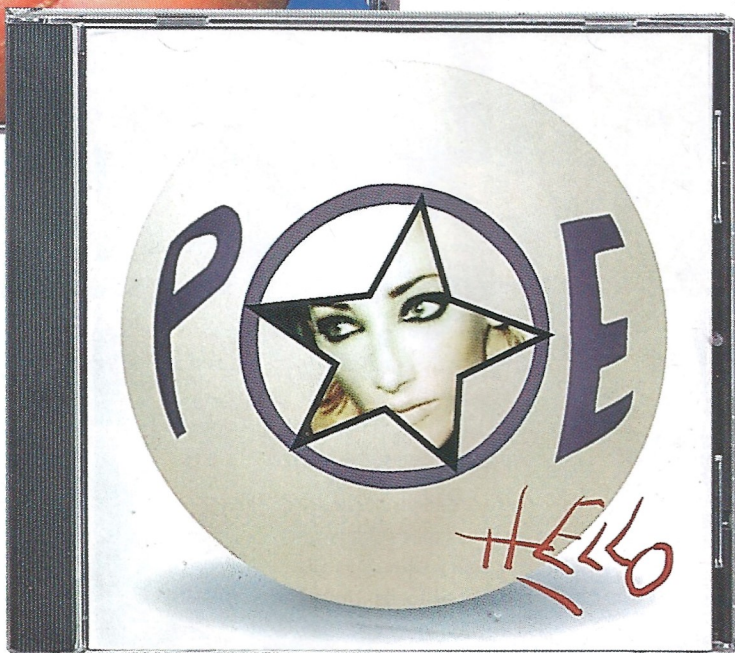
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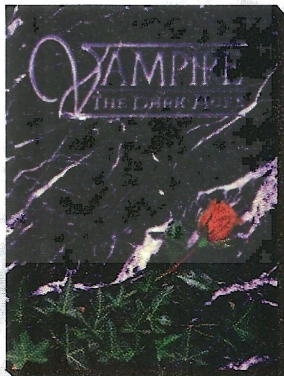
# VAMPIRE™

## THE DARK AGES



Five years ago White Wolf turned the world of role playing games upside down with the release of **Vampire: The Masquerade**, the best-selling, critically acclaimed storytelling game of personal horror.

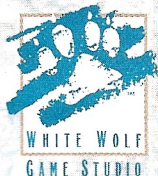
Now **Vampire: The Dark Ages** takes you to the twelfth century when the Kindred ruled as lords. Unfettered by any Masquerade, they built kingdoms and bathed in blood. Glory and terror await in the shadows of the past...but beware, the darkness you need fear most is the darkness within yourself.



**Vampire: The Dark Ages** is a hardcover, stand-alone game that is completely compatible with **Vampire: The Masquerade**.

S p r i n g , 1 9 9 6

Featuring artwork by John Boltin







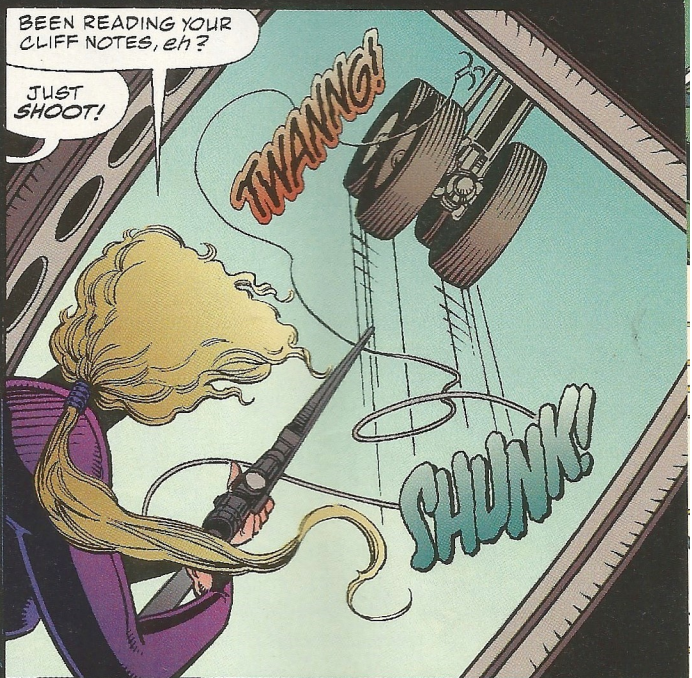
...TELL  
THE SLUT  
TO TAKE HER  
SHOT!

GO FOR IT,  
HUNTRESS!

I WILL AS SOON  
AS YOUR JUVENILE  
ASSISTANT GETS US  
IN THE CORRECT  
ALIGNMENT!



THIS IS AS  
GOOD AS IT GETS,  
WILHEMINA  
TELL!

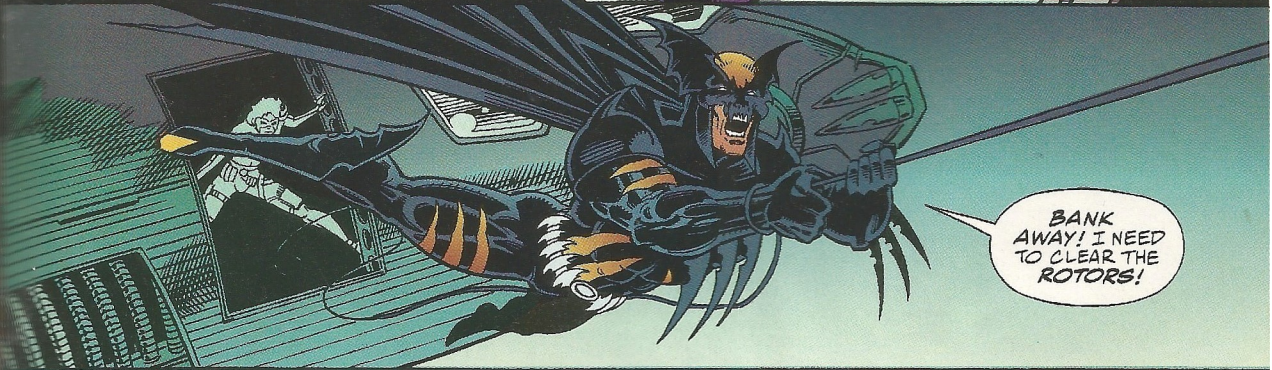


BEEN READING YOUR  
CLIFF NOTES, eh?

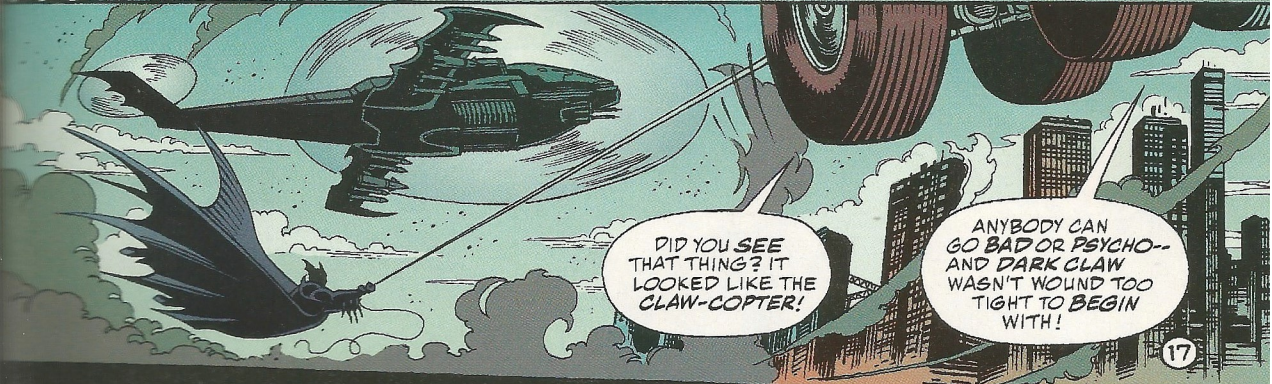
JUST  
SHOOT!

THWANG!

SHUNK!



BANK  
AWAY! I NEED  
TO CLEAR THE  
ROTORS!



DID YOU SEE  
THAT THING? IT  
LOOKED LIKE THE  
CLAW-COPTER!

ANYBODY CAN  
GO BAD OR PSYCHO--  
AND DARK CLAW  
WASN'T WOUND TOO  
TIGHT TO BEGIN  
WITH!



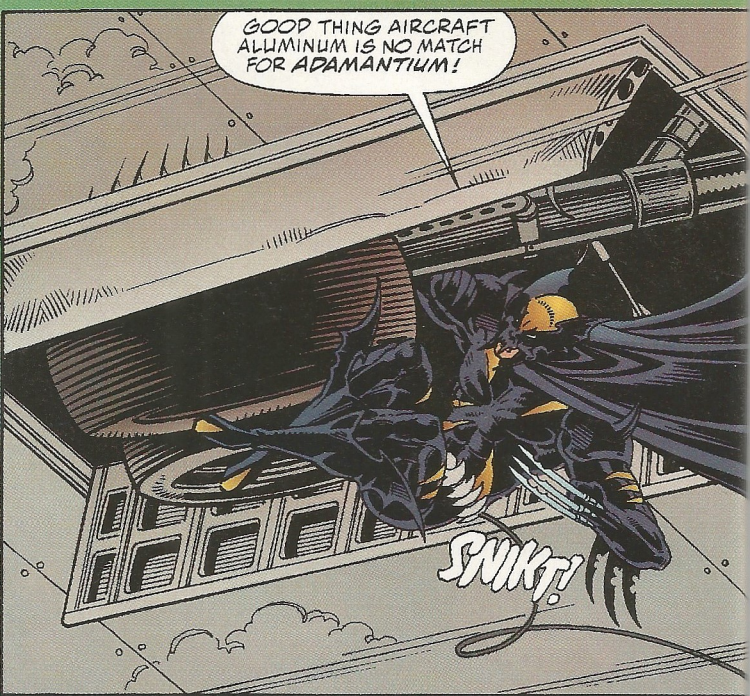


GEAR IS  
RETRACTING...

HAVE TO  
GET UP INTO  
THE WELL  
BEFORE THE  
COVERS CLOSE  
AND LOCK!

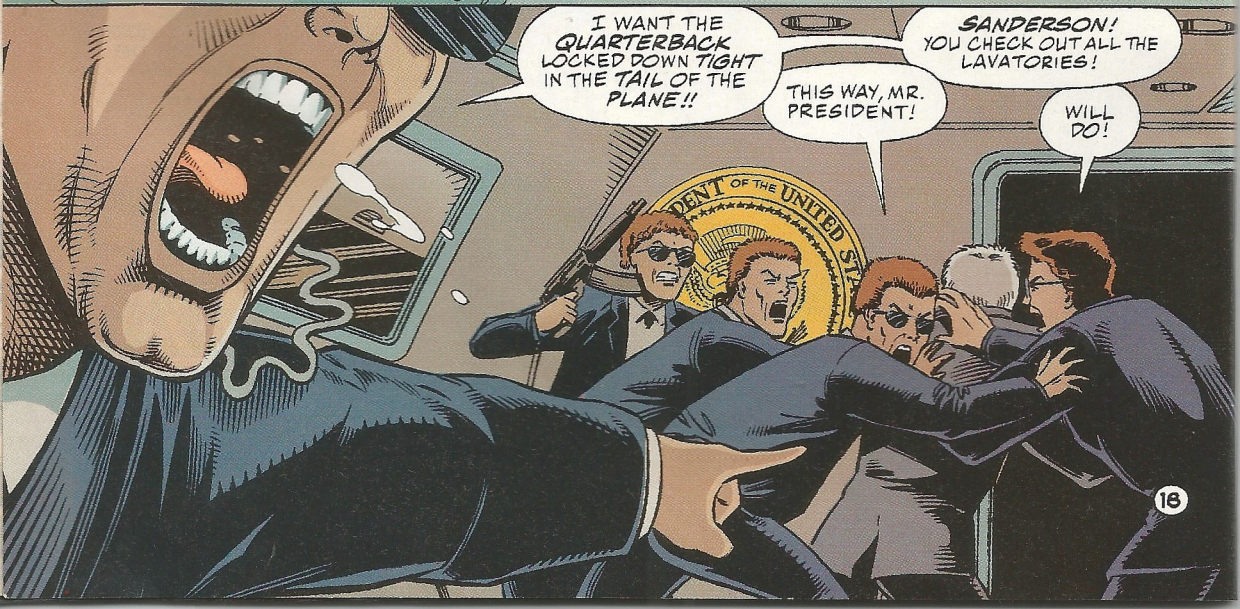


HE'S  
CLIMBING UP  
THE NOSE  
WHEEL!



GOOD THING AIRCRAFT  
ALUMINUM IS NO MATCH  
FOR ADAMANTIUM!

SNIKT!



I WANT THE  
QUARTERBACK  
LOCKED DOWN TIGHT  
IN THE TAIL OF THE  
PLANE!!

SANDERSON!  
YOU CHECK OUT ALL THE  
LAVATORIES!

THIS WAY, MR.  
PRESIDENT!

WILL  
DO!





SECURITY! HE'S IN THE COCKPIT!!

I'M NOT THE THREAT! YOU HAVE TO SEARCH--



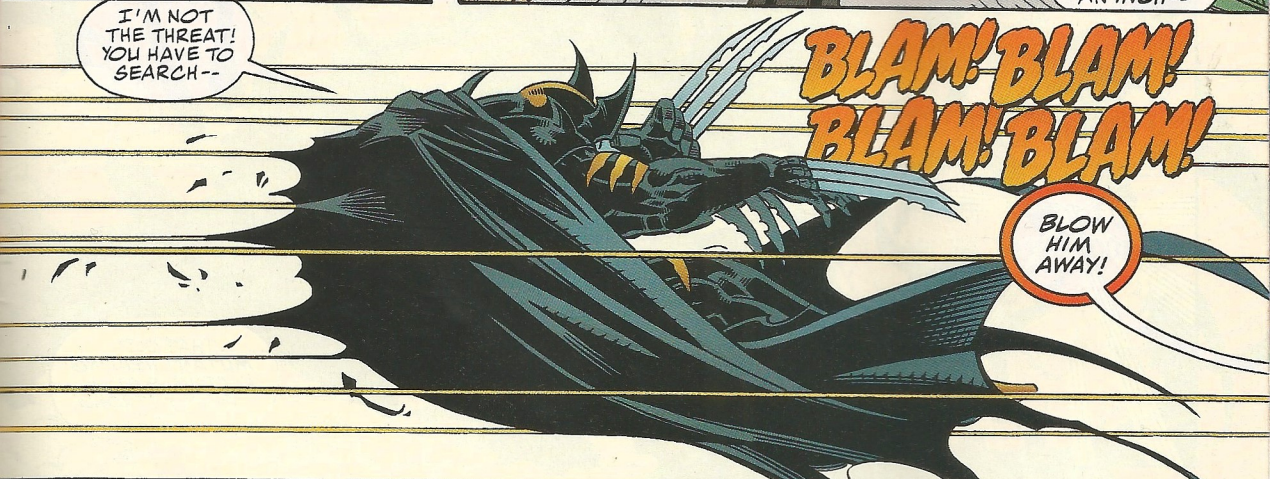
I'M HERE TO WARN YOU!

THE HYENA IS MAKING AN ATTEMPT ON THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE--

THE ONLY COSTUMED WACKO I SEE AROUND HERE IS YOU, BUDDY!

YOU FOOLS! HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY ON THIS PLANE!! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW--

FREEZE! DON'T MOVE AN INCH--



BLAM! BLAM!  
BLAM! BLAM!

BLOW HIM AWAY!



SANDERSON! HAVE YOU CLEARED THE LAVATORIES?

I'M CHECKING THEM NOW!



THIS IS NO WAY TO GET A HEAD, LAD!

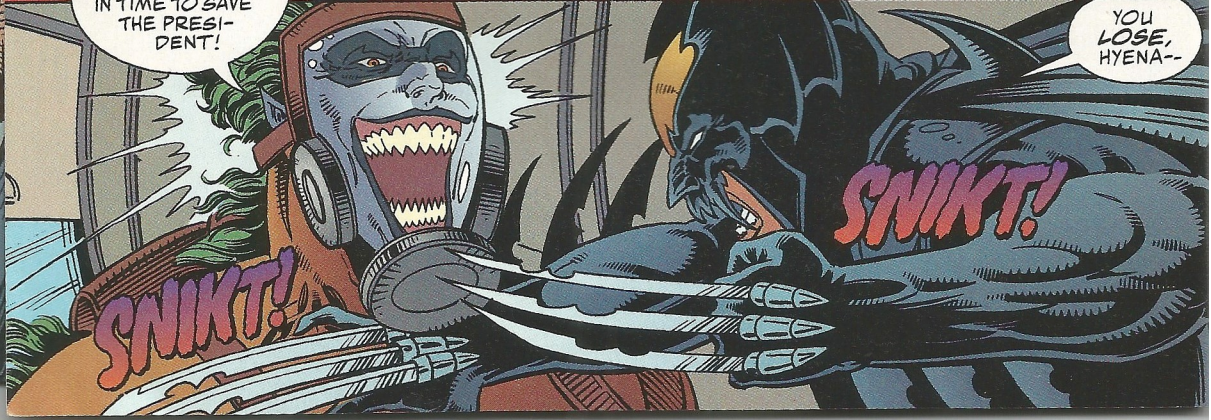
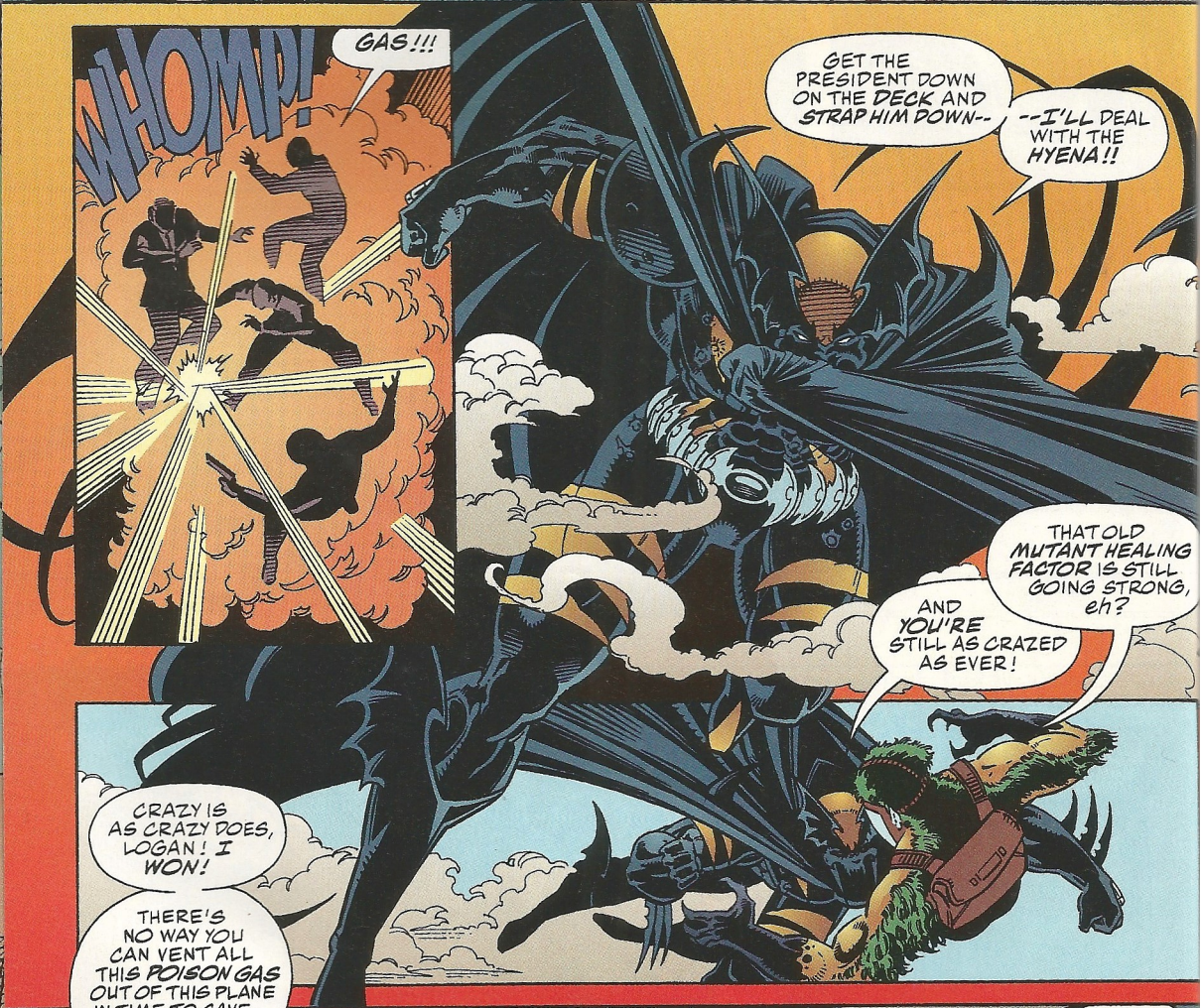
THIS WOULD PROBABLY PUT YOUR CAREER IN THE TOILET--

BRAAAP!

--THAT IS, IF YOU WEREN'T ALREADY DEAD!!

KA-CHUNG!









# 1996 FAN AWARDS

What are your favorites in the world of comics? *Comics Buyer's Guide*, the weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let you, the fan, cast your ballot in determining what the fan favorites are for the year.

**RULES & REGULATIONS:** Only material with a 1995 cover date can win. Votes for projects that did not have a 1995 publication date will not be counted. This ballot may be copied and passed on to your friends for their votes. Anyone who loves comics can vote - but only vote once. If you vote more than once, ALL your votes will be thrown out. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. Every voter in the United States will get a free issue of **COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE** with the results (scheduled to be #1182, dated July 12, 1996), unless you already have a current subscription to **CBG**. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of **CBG** can't be mailed out of the country unless your vote is accompanied by \$3.00 in U.S. funds to cover handling and shipping. The award winners will be announced at the Chicago Comicon, held June 20 - 23, 1996.



Get ready for some explosive surprises and the **CBG Fan Awards** results at the 21st annual



Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by April 30, 1996 to:  
**COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE FAN AWARDS • 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001**

- Please print clearly or type -

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female (circle one)

Street or Box \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I got this ballot from: \_\_\_\_\_

1. FAVORITE EDITOR \_\_\_\_\_
2. FAVORITE WRITER \_\_\_\_\_
3. FAVORITE PENCILLER \_\_\_\_\_
4. FAVORITE INKER \_\_\_\_\_
5. FAVORITE COLORIST \_\_\_\_\_
6. FAVORITE PAINTER \_\_\_\_\_
7. FAVORITE LETTERER \_\_\_\_\_
8. FAVORITE COVER ARTIST \_\_\_\_\_
9. FAVORITE COMIC-BOOK STORY \_\_\_\_\_
10. FAVORITE COMIC BOOK \_\_\_\_\_
11. FAVORITE LIMITED COMIC-BOOK SERIES \_\_\_\_\_
12. FAVORITE ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM \_\_\_\_\_
13. FAVORITE REPRINT GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM \_\_\_\_\_
14. FAVORITE CHARACTER \_\_\_\_\_



**FROM THE  
JAWS  
OF DEFEAT...**



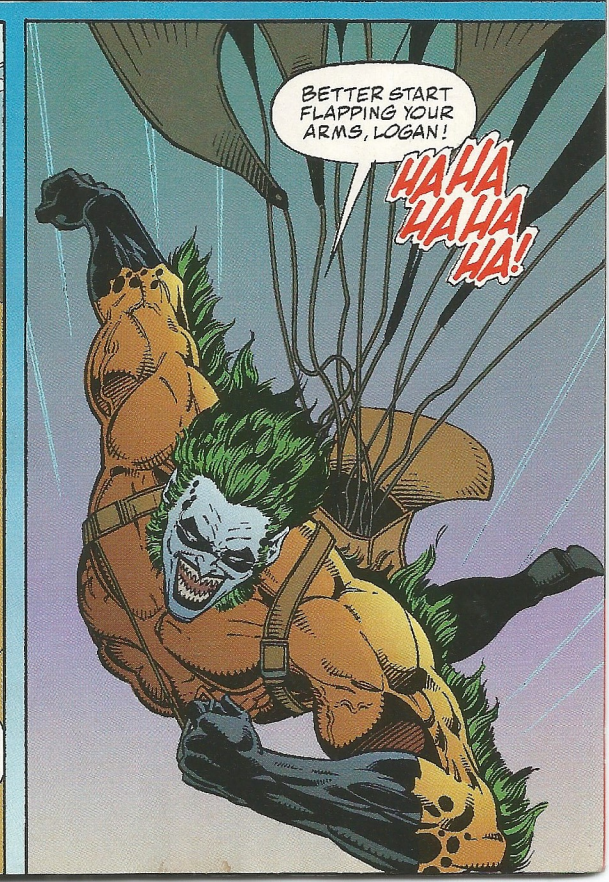
**VERSUS** **MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

**Issue #4**

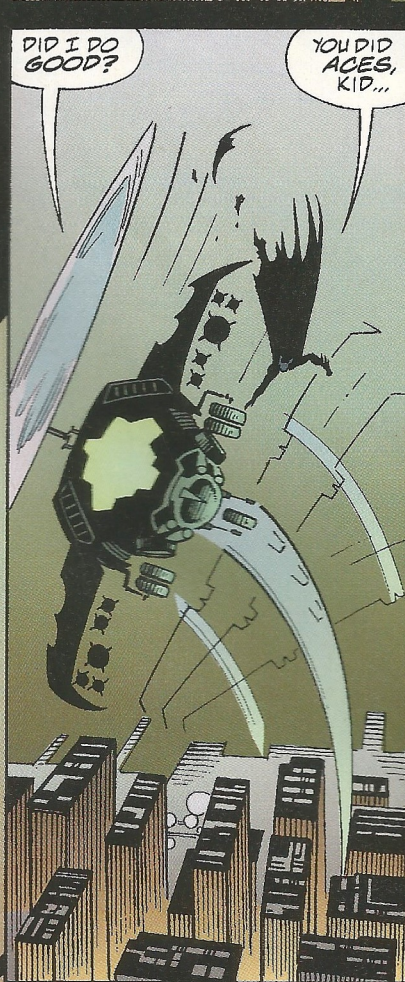
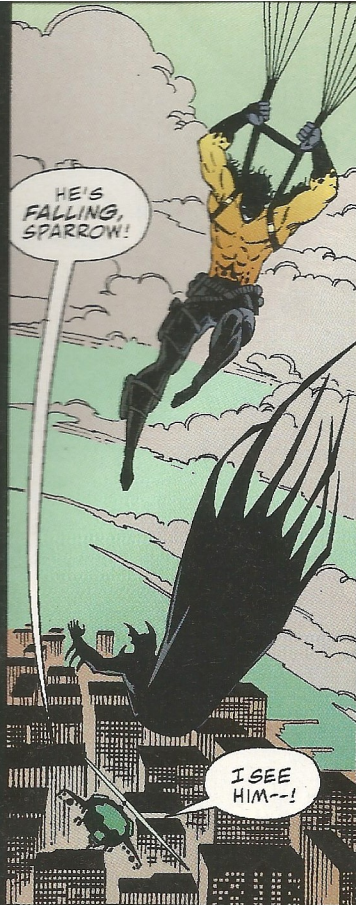
**THE GRAND FINALE  
IN STORES NEXT WEEK.**

**David • Jurgens • Castellini • Rubinstein • Neary**









**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**THIS CLAW!**  
**THIS CROSSBOW!**



Dear bodacious clawed one,

Congratulations on getting your own book, and about time if I don't say so myself! I am thoroughly blown away by awesome savage in-your-face-ness and all that cool stuff you say when you're ripping the guts out of nasty bad guys and tearing their faces off with your adamantium claws! One thing, though; You ought to dump that wussy little whiner Jubilee and get yourself a REAL sidekick! I mean, what kind of cheap power is that she has anyway? You could replace her with a midget and a bag of firecrackers! Get somebody as bad and gnarly as the HYENA! Either that or some totally awesome BABE! Yeah! Some totally babed-out ultratwist like some of those nice ladies they have on BAYWATCH! So that's the ticket, dudes—more ripping and stomping and punching claws through brains and tearing out spinal cords through left nostrils and more outrageous totally mind-boggling, to-sell-your-soul-for, never-dream-of-getting-near-one-in-the-real-world FURIOUSLY ENDOWED BABES!!!! Get the picture?

Zachary Feuer  
Los Angeles, CA

**We shall take your comments into consideration.**



Dear Editorial People,

I am a long-time collector of Sleuth Comics. I own three complete sets in three condition grades as well as several hundred "traders." My devotion to this particular title has always had more to do with consistency of characterization and logical complexity of the story line rather than the "flavor of the month" art team. This is why I am profoundly disturbed by the current trend towards ret-con and revisionism. Don't you realize that these characters are standing upon several decades of accumulative history? How can you be so cavalier with story lines established by such giants of the industry as G. Waldo Emerson, Elihu Ramakrishna, Paul Kupperberg and E. Nelson Bridwell? Who is this upstart Larry Hama, anyway? Wasn't he the writer on "Sgt. Fury and the Combat-Happy Joes of Easy Company"? What kind of credentials are those for taking over a flagship character like Dark Claw? Larry Hama couldn't write his way out of a paper bag if it was on fire! He actually writes stories that have ENDINGS!! That's not what we want!! He doesn't make allusions to sitcoms, *Star Trek*, and other icons of pop culture. He doesn't even use CAPTIONS, for heaven's sake!!! How are we going to get our daily dose of purple prose without CAP-

# SHRED 'EM AND WEEP

TIONS!! There are those of us out here who LIKE our comics to be pretentious!

Aemon Goldstein  
Toronto, Ontario

**Golly, Aemon, you certainly have opinions, don't you?**



Dear Dark Claw Staff,

I am very pleased indeed with the current creative team on Dark Claw, and I am thrilled that the "Taloned Avenger" is getting his own title at last! I remember Mr. Balent's work from "John Jones, Vampire Hunter" and "Prince Namor the Aqua-Man" and I thought it was quite impressive back then, but lately, it seems he has really found his style and brought his drawing ability right up to the stellar level! I have always enjoyed Mr. Hama's writing and I appreciate the many literary allusions and asides he makes. I, too am a big fan of William Blake, W.B. Yeats and Cormac McCarthy. I was quite impressed with the whole "Agamemnon's Ghost" arc. The visual references to Goya, Bosch and Brueghel (the Elder) were so implicit to the plot, and that paraphrase of the subway sequence from B. Krigstein's "The Master Race" (E.C. Comics) was utterly mind-boggling. I did catch the reference to *The Trojan Women* and the casual aside about Raskalnikov climbing the stairs to murder the pawnbroker in *Crime and Punishment*! Keep up the good work!

Simon Fraser Cains  
Anglesey, N. Wales



Dear Slicers and Dicers,

I wrote a song about Dark Claw. Here it is:

Who the baddest raddest dude?  
Who got the style, who got the moves?  
Who throws down on the gangstas and the rudes?  
Who chucks the molesters off the roofs?  
It's Dark Claw!  
Snikt!  
It's Dark Claw!  
Snikt!  
If you lootin' and shootin'

And a-bumpin' and a-thumpin'  
You better get straight  
Or you gonna get a lumpin'  
'Cause the Clawed Canuck  
Gonna mess you up  
Gonna rip out your kidneys  
And mail them down to Sidney  
Australia and then he's punchin'

Your face into luncheon  
Meat all covered with ketchup  
While you just standin' there  
Sayin' "What's up, what's up?"  
And outside it's raining fists on your head  
If you didn't know better, you think you was dead  
Dark Claw!  
Snikt!  
Dark Claw!  
Snikt!

How do you like this song? It needs a heavy house beat with some rad samples. If you like it, I have hundreds more. Your best fan,

Tshonge Arbutnot  
Cleveland, OH

**What can we say, Tshonge? We are touched, we are moved, we are transported. Hope to see more of your songs right here on these pages!**



Dear Creators,

Thank you for remembering that there are a few of us left who appreciate a good story and who actually read the comic instead of bagging it in mint condition. I know you have to answer to the accountants and lawyers who run the corporation, and you have to make concessions to the sales department who pressure you to have big events and crossovers and metallic covers with die-cuts and holograms. It is a lot to stand up against. I just wanted to thank you for caring about the characters as much as the ordinary reader and giving us stories with real human impact.

Margo Bobarek  
Staten Island

**NEXT ISSUE: Whose side is the Huntress really on? You'll be devastated when you learn the awesome answer in—"This Claw, This Crossbow!"**

Cover credits: Jumpin' Jim Balent, pencils; Roarin' Ray McCarthy, inks; Maulin' Matt Hollingsworth, colors and separations.

AMALGAM



AMALGAM COMICS, 1700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

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# AMALGAM NATION

## CARWALD'S CORNERBOX

Greetings, Amalgamaniacs! This is the month it happens—where the Amalgam Universe bursts wide open and we launch twelve (count 'em—twelve) new titles featuring some of your favorite Amalgamated superstars in their own titles at last! This is a comic book counterrevolution and you, sensation-seekers, are getting in on ground zero!

We could heap on more hype, but instead we'd like to shift gears a moment and talk about something truly important in the cosmic scheme—namely, brotherhood. Friends, go out and make an effort to get along with someone whose ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, or comic book preference is unlike your own. After all, we're all passengers on the same planet going 'round, and when it gets down to it, everybody wants the same basic things out of life. So let's each do our part to make the ride go a bit smoother. Says us!

Now, with that off our chest, we want to remind you, the second wave of the Amalgam Era of Comics is now upon us! And it wouldn't be happening if you mighty Amalgamites didn't demand it. Accelerate!

— M.M. CARWALD



**X-PATROL #1:** Ferro-Man! Elasti-Girl! Dial H.U.S.K.! Niles Cable! Shatterstarfire! Beastling! Six outsiders unite for the first time to face the dreaded despot known as Doctor Doomsday! By Karl Kesel, Barbara Kesel, Roger Cruz, and Jon Holdredge!

**JLX #1:** They're outlaws hated by the world they've sworn to protect—and hounded by the avenging heroes of the JLA. Even if they survive the awesome assault of Amalgam's mightiest heroes, they must still face the discovery that a member of their squad is not what he appears to be! By Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Howard Porter, and John Dell!



**SPIDER-BOY #1:** He's the world-famous web-slinging superstar, he can stick to walls, and his crash pad is the Baxter Building—not bad for a teenaged punk! Now two obstacles loom in the path of the amazing archkid—Bizarnage and King Lizard! By Karl Kesel and Mike Wieringo!

**BULLETS & BRACELETS #1:** Years ago an unlikely romantic interlude between Trevor Castle and Diana of Themyscira produced a child. Now this punishing man and wonderful woman must unite once more to save their son from Thanosoid! By John Ostrander, Gary Frank, and Cam Smith!



**AMAZON #1:** Reared on the island of Themyscira, weather-wielding mutant Ororo Munroe battles the very gods of legend she has been taught to worship! By John Byrne and Terry Austin!

**DOCTOR STRANGEFATE #1:** Amalgam's Supreme Lord of Order, Doctor Strangefate, will do anything to preserve the Amalgam Universe—even kill the strange new hero Access! By Ron Marz, Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez, and Kevin Nowlan!



**SPEED DEMON #1:** Blaze Allen teams up with his nephew Wally in a race against time and Hell itself to snatch the soul of the Green Goblin. If they fail, the Night Spectre wins the keys to the nether-realm! By Howard Mackie, James Felder, Salvador Larrocca, and Al Milgrom!

**LEGEND OF THE DARKCLAW #1:** The adamantium-clawed nocturnal protector of New Gotham is joined by Sparrow, his spunky protégé, in his war against the feral and psychotic Hyla! By Larry Hama, Jim Balent, and Ray McCarthy.



**ASSASSINS #1:** Dare and Catsai—two of Amalgam's deadliest femmes fatales—must negotiate the deathtraps of Arkham Tower to assassinate the mayor! By D.G. Chichester and Scott McDaniel!

**MAGNETO & THE MAGNETIC MEN #1:** Erik Magnus watched in horror as his comrades were slaughtered. Now utilizing the technology that his mutant-hating brother used to create the Sentinels, Magnus constructs five robots, each formed from a different metal, to protect his fellow Homo Superiors. Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Jeff Matsuda, and Art Thibert!



**BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. #1:** Driven by the murder of his parents, a grim multimillionaire focuses his rage by forging Amalgam's premier espionage strike force! Now Wayne and his agents have to save the East Coast from the depredations of the Green Skull! By Chuck Dixon and Cary Nord!



**SUPER-SOLDIER #1:** Transformed by an experimental infusion of alien DNA, a mere mortal became the greatest fighting machine of World War II. Revived in modern times, the living legend must battle the Green Skull and Hydra while defending truth, justice, and the American way. By Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons!



# THE YEAR'S BIGGEST HIT

THIS  
MONTH  
ON...



VAL  
KILMER

TOMMY LEE  
JONES

JIM  
CARREY

NICOLE  
KIDMAN

CHRIS  
O'DONNELL

## BATMAN FOREVER

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NICOLE KIDMAN CHRIS O'DONNELL "BATMAN FOREVER" MICHAEL GOUGH PAT HINGLE Music by ELLIOT GOLDENTHAL  
Executive Producers BENJAMIN MELNIKER AND MICHAEL E. USLAN Based Upon Batman Characters Created by BOB KANE and Published by DC COMICS  
Story by LEE BATCHLER & JANET SCOTT BATCHLER Screenplay by LEE BATCHLER & JANET SCOTT BATCHLER AND AKIVA GOLDSMAN  
Produced by TIM BURTON AND PETER MACGREGOR-SCOTT Directed by JOEL SCHUMACHER  
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Theme Parks

PG-13

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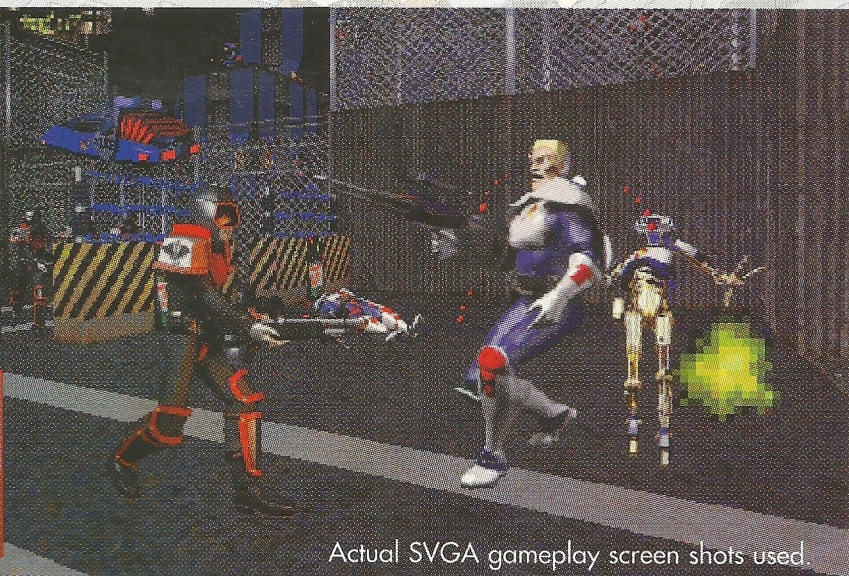
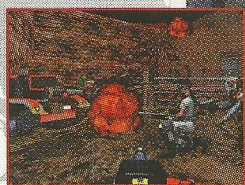
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# DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES



Actual SVGA gameplay screen shots used.

## TO BE A SUPERHERO?!

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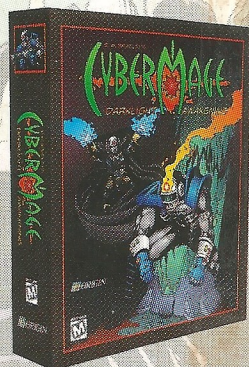
In the thrilling CyberMage story, you are a novice superhero, the possessor of an alien Darklight Gem implant, trying to master your newfound powers and discover the secrets of your origin while on the run from your nemesis, the evil Darklight adept NeCrom.

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